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Attorney for the State

**IN THE JUSTICE COURT, IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF CASCADE
CITY OF GREAT FALLS, STATE OF MONTANA
BEFORE THE HONORABLE JUSTICE OF THE PEACE**

STATE OF MONTANA,

Plaintiff,

vs.

MONICA LYNN BLACKTONGUE,

Defendant.

No. _____

**INITIAL COMPLAINT,
AFFIDAVIT IN SUPPORT, AND
MOTION TO DETERMINE
PROBABLE CAUSE AND SET
BOND**

Citation No. ,

The State of Montana, by and through the Cascade County Attorney, pursuant to M.C.A. §§ 46-11-101(1), 46-11-401(1), 46-1-202(6), and 46-11-401(3), hereby files this complaint against the above-named Defendant in the above-captioned Justice Court for purposes of M.C.A. § 46-10-105(1), pending filing of an Information and Affidavit in District Court pursuant to M.C.A. §§ 46-11-101(3), 46-11-201, and 46-11-203. This complaint consists of this pleading and the attached law enforcement citation form(s) and probable cause affidavit(s) which by this reference are hereby incorporated herein as if set forth in their entirety.

The State further moves the Court for a finding of probable cause and to set bail in this matter pursuant to M.C.A. §§ 46-9-109 and 46-9-301. This Defendant has been charged with the following offenses:

COUNT I: ARSON, a Felony, in violation of M.C.A. § 45-6-103(1)(a). The above-named Defendant by means of fire or explosives, knowingly or purposely damaged or destroyed a structure, vehicle, personal property (other than a vehicle) that exceeds \$1,500 in value, crop, pasture, forest, or other real property that is property of another without consent.

A person convicted of the offense of arson shall be imprisoned in the state prison for a term not to exceed 20 years or be fined an amount not to exceed \$50,000, or both.

COUNT II: CRIMINAL ENDANGERMENT, a Felony, in violation of M.C.A. § 45-5-207. The above named Defendant knowingly engaged in conduct that created a substantial risk of death or serious bodily injury to another.

A person convicted of the offense of criminal endangerment shall be fined an amount not to exceed \$50,000 or imprisoned in the state prison for a term not to exceed 10 years, or both.

STATE OF MONTANA)

: ss.

County of Cascade)

AFFIDAVIT IN SUPPORT

As outlined in the attached probable cause affidavit, on or about September 22, 2024, around 11:21 pm, Officer Stephen Horn of the Great Falls Police Department was dispatched to the Grizzly Inn (1214 13th St S) for a report of a person trying to set the hotel on fire. Upon Officer Horn's arrival, he met the owner, Dustin Bruyer outside. Dustin was standing with a female, later identified as Monica Blacktongue ("the Defendant"), and another officer.

Dustin told Officer Horn that his front desk employee had contacted him and told him that there was a female trying to light the hotel on fire. Dustin met the employee in the boiler room of the hotel. The employee told Officer Horn that he saw the Defendant standing outside the boiler room and being confrontational with other guests. He then saw the Defendant go into the boiler room and he followed her. The Defendant was spraying an aerosol can on top of the water heater and lighting it on fire with a lighter. The employee told Officer Horn that when he entered the room, the top of the water heater had active flames on it. The employee was able to put the flames out by repeatedly hitting them with his hand. When the employee yelled at the Defendant to ask what she was doing, she stated that "Someone is trying to kill me, and if I'm going to die, I'm taking everyone with me!" The employee took the can from the Defendant and saw that it was hairspray.

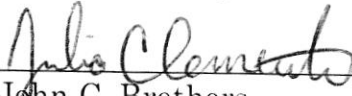
Officer Horn observed that the water heater had a tag on it indicating that it was a gas powered water heater. The gas line feeding the water heater was on top, where the Defendant had started the fire.

Officer Horn then went to speak with the Defendant, and she agreed to talk after being read her Miranda rights. Officer Horn found a green lighter in the Defendant's pocket during a pat search. The Defendant admitted that her intentions were to light the gas line on top of the water heater in order to burn down the hotel. At the time of this incident, there were over 100 people staying at the hotel.

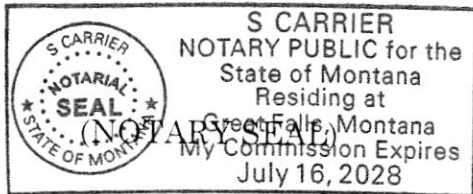
For the foregoing reasons, the State respectfully requests bond in the amount of \$100,000. The Defendant has a lengthy drug related history out of California.

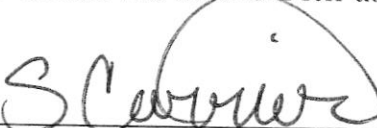
DATED this 24th day of September, 2024.

JOSHUA A. RACKI
Cascade County Attorney


John C. Brothers
Deputy County Attorney

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO before me on the 24th day of September, 2024.




Notary Public for the State of Montana,
Residing at Great Falls, Cascade County,
Montana.
My commission expires July 16 2028

cc: CA/Racki

O R D E R

Upon examining the foregoing Motion and Affidavit,

IT IS THE FINDING OF THIS COURT:

_____ that probable cause exists to charge the Defendant as stated above;

OR,

_____ that probable cause does not exist to charge the Defendant as stated above.

DATED this _____24th day of _____ in Cascade County,
Montana.

DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

PROBABLE CAUSE AFFIDAVIT



DISTRICT COURT GREAT FALLS, CASCADE COUNTY, MONTANA

STATE OF MONTANA

Plaintiff

vs.

BLACKTONGUE, MONICA LYNN

Defendant

PROBABLE CAUSE AFFIDAVIT/ HEARING

CASE NUMBER: PD24-09432

INCIDENT DATE: 09/22/24

OFFICER AFFIDAVIT:

The undersigned Officer of the Great Falls Police Department, being first duly sworn, states the following:

1. The offense(s) charged in this complaint occurred within the city limits of Great Falls, Montana.
2. I base the probable cause to charge or issue a warrant in this case on the following:

On September 22nd, 2024, at 2321 hours, I was dispatched to the Grizzly Inn at 1214 13th St S for a report of a person trying to start the hotel on fire.

Upon arrival, I met owner Dustin Bruyer outside. Dustin was standing with a female and another Officer who arrived just before me. This other officer had secured the female in handcuffs prior to my arrival. I went into the hotel to speak with Dustin.

Dustin told me his front desk employee contacted him telling him there was a female trying to light the hotel on fire. He came out of his room and met the employee in the boiler room for the hotel. Dustin took me into the boiler room and called his employee to come in with us. The employee told me he saw the female standing outside the boiler room, she was being confrontational with other guests. He then saw her go into the boiler room so he went in after her. The female was spraying an aerosol can on top of their water heater and lighting it on fire with a lighter. The employee told me when he entered the room, the top of the water heater had active flames on it, he put the flames out by hitting them repeatedly with his hand. He yelled at the female "What are you doing?" She responded, "Someone is trying to kill me, and if I'm going to die I'm taking everyone with me!" The employee took the can from the female, which he now saw was hair spray. Dustin gave me the can of hair spray.

I looked at the water heater the female lit the fire on top of. The water heater had a tag on it showing it was a gas powered water heater. The gas line feeding the water heater was right on top where the female started the fire.

I went outside to speak to the female. I identified her as Monica Blacktongue. I conducted a pat search of Monica, she had a green lighter in her pocket. I read Monica her Miranda rights and asked her what happened. Monica admitted to me her intentions were to light the gas line on top of the water heater to burn down the hotel. At this time, there were more than 100 people staying in the hotel.

3. I know the purpose of this statement is part of the probable cause hearing for the issuance of the below listed charges, and/ or requesting a warrant for the arrest of the defendant named in the complaint.

CHARGES:

45-5-207 - Criminal Endangerment

45-6-103 - Arson Exceeds Value Of \$1500

Dated this Monday, September 23, 2024

OFFICER SIGNATURE:

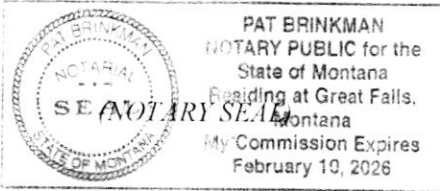
St Z

BADGE NUMBER/OFFICER NAME:

369 - Horn, Stephen

NOTARY SIGNATURE:

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 23 day of Sept, 2024.



at BIL

Notary Public for the State of Montana,
Residing at Great Falls, Cascade County, Montana

My commission expires: 2-10-26

JUDGE ORDER:

The Court/ undersigned Judge hereby finds: *THERE IS* *THERE IS NOT*

SUFFICIENT PROBABLE CAUSE to file the above listed charges, and/ or hold the defendant pending trial or hearing, based on the facts outlined herein.

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this _____ day of _____.

JUDGE SIGNATURE:

DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

CITY ATTORNEY <input type="checkbox"/>	COUNTY ATTORNEY <input type="checkbox"/>	COUNTY JAIL <input type="checkbox"/>	SHERIFF'S OFFICE <input type="checkbox"/>	PUB DEF PARALEGAL <input type="checkbox"/>	DEFENDANT <input type="checkbox"/>	DEFENSE COUNSEL <input type="checkbox"/>
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